REMARKS

Claims 2-12 and 14-19 are pending in the present application. Claims 2-12 and 14-17 have been amended by this preliminary amendment, and claims 18-19 were added by the amendment dated December 10, 2002.

Entry of the above amendments and an early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Martin Geissler (Reg. 51,011) at telephone number (703) 205-8000, which is located in the Washington, DC area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees

required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

The claims have been amended as follows:

2. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) The [~~operator unit~~] X-ray examining apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the counterpart device is a card reader and said identification means is a card, said card reader and said card being structured such that said card reader can read said card with the card remaining attached to said operator.

3. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) The [~~operator unit~~] X-ray examining apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the identification means is a contacting identification device that can remain attached to said operator when said identification means is in said predetermined space, so that said identification means is automatically moved from said predetermined space when said operator leaves said operating field.

4. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) The [~~operator unit~~] X-ray examining apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the contacting identification device is one of a chip card and a magnetic card.

5. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) The [~~operator unit~~] X-ray examining apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the identification device

is an identification device which operates without contact and can remain attached to said operator when said identification means is in said predetermined space, whereby said identification means is automatically moved from said predetermined space when said operator leaves said operating field.

6. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) The [~~operator unit~~] X-ray examining apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the identification device is one of a transceiver unit and a transponder which works together with the counterpart device of the identification system without contact.

7. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) The [~~operator unit~~] X-ray examining apparatus according to claim 5, wherein a non-contact link between the identification device and the counterpart device is maintained within a local area proximate to said operating field.

8. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) The [~~operator unit~~] X-ray examining apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the counterpart device has a respective one of a read and write mode by means of which the identification device is respectively one of read from and written on with respective installation- and person-specific data.

9. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) The [~~operator unit~~] X-ray examining apparatus according to claim 8, wherein there is a read mode by means of which the identification device is read from, and wherein read data is recorded in various X-ray apparatus and is caused to be combined and stored centrally by the identification device.

10. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) The [~~operator unit~~] X-ray examining apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the counterpart device is integrated into the operating field.

11. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) The [~~operator unit~~] X-ray examining apparatus according to claim 15, wherein an individual operator-unit setting is accomplished by means of the identification means, whereby the identification means of a first operator activates the operating unit to a different first mode of operation than would the identification means of the second operator.

12. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) The [~~operator unit~~] X-ray examining apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the operator unit is cleared by the identification device upon the operator unit entering the second different mode of operation upon the operator moving the identification means away from the predetermined space.

14. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) The [~~operator unit~~] X-ray examining apparatus according to claim 15, wherein a live scanner is also connected upstream from the identification system.

15. (TWICE AMENDED) An [~~operator unit for an~~] X-ray examining apparatus [~~having a monitor for displaying an X-ray image for an operator, said operator unit~~] comprising:

a monitor for displaying an X-ray image for an operator; and

an operator unit, said operator unit comprising:

an operating field for being manipulated by the operator to operate the operating unit and thereby operate the X-ray examining apparatus and the monitor; and

an identification system, said identification system including an identification means for being carried by the operator and a counterpart device for being operatively coupled to said operating field,

wherein said counterpart device is for activating said operating unit to a first mode of operation when the operator begins to operate the operating unit in at least partial response to information on said identification means read by said counterpart device, and for activating said operating unit to a second different mode of operation in at least partial response to information on said

identification means read by said counterpart device when said operator stops operating said X-ray examining apparatus.

16. (ONCE AMENDED) [~~An operator unit~~] The X-ray examining apparatus as in claim 15, wherein said counterpart device is for activating said operating unit to said first mode of operation in at least partial response to said operator carrying said identification means moving said identification means within a predetermined space relative to said counterpart device at which said operator carrying said identification means can manipulate said operating field and for activating said operating unit to said second different mode of operation in at least partial response to said operator moving said identification means away from said predetermined space.

17. ONCE AMENDED) [~~An operator unit~~] The X-ray examining apparatus as in claim 16, wherein said identification means is for automatically activating said operating unit to said second different mode of operation in response to said operator moving said identification means away from said predetermined space.